



CBKA NEWSLETTER

Available online at
www.teesbees.co.uk

Year 32/3
November 2017

BEE INFORMED

The *at a glance* guide to beekeeping events and other important information

The final meeting in 2017 will be a social evening on **18 December**. More details in the box on this page.

At 7:30 pm on **Monday, 15 January 2018** there will be a talk about bee-stings and allergy. This will include details of why it happens and the types of reaction together with how to manage stings, including severe reactions.

An **Improvers Day** is being arranged for **10 February 2018**.

Planning ahead into 2018, the BBKA Spring Convention is **Friday 13th April to Sunday 15th April 2018** at Harper Adams University in Shropshire.

The **Northern Beekeepers Convention** is being planned for 2018, but the date is not yet confirmed.

Frost has arrived in November. It may be here to stay, with rumours of Thunder Snow and a bad winter, but there again it may just be here this week gone next. Whatever it is we need to be prepared.

I think I have done all I can to protect my bees from the various possibilities. Varroa have been treated, feeding done and insulation applied. I've made some fondant ready for the girls Christmas present and the hives are both strapped and weighted down. What could go wrong—lots I fear...

Already one nuc seems light so they will be getting some of the fondant tomorrow. It was a colony that I had in my Observation Hive most of the summer then put in a poly nuc. They were fed, but seemed more intent on flying than taking my food. If only bees were more obedient.

Since the last newsletter I have been to the National Honey Show where I met two of our members who were exhibiting. As you see Shirley Bond came away with several prize cards, sadly, and despite winning in all our shows Mike McCartney wasn't so fortunate. My only hope for honey was the in the heather class, but this year it has behaved more like a heather blend and appears like a dark soft set not a true heather honey. I don't think the bees did what they were told and found some balsam, vetch or willowherb. Such is life. *John Canning—Chair CBKA*

Cleveland Beekeepers Association

Christmas Quiz and Pie & Peas Supper

Monday 18 December at 7:30 pm

All proceeds to Bees for Development

Read about them and their work [here](#)

Tickets £3.50 from [Sal Mancina](#)

Writers Needed

Tell us about your apiary and beekeeping. Just a few lines or a photograph or two would be great.

Please email your story to newsletter@teesbees.co.uk

National recognition has been given to one of our members at the annual National Honey Show when Shirley Bond



Shirley Bond receives the Wax Bowl at the National Honey Show

was awarded the Wax Bowl for her entry of moulded Wax. Shirley also received first prizes for honey in the Soft Set and Heather Blend classes as well as a selection of cards for her candles. Why not give it a go next year; most certainly someone locally will be attending and can deliver and collect your entries and prizes.

CBKA clothing Graham Clarke is preparing an order of Association clothing. If you would like to order one, or more, please email with details, including the size to web@teesbees.co.uk.



The options are *polo shirt* £10.00 (as shown), *sweat shirt* £15.00 both in royal blue and a *fleece* £25.00 in navy blue. Sizes are in the usual categories and range from xs to XXXL. Please let Graham have your order by the meeting on 20 November. Delivery is likely to depend on the quantity, but is usually quite quick.



Annual Hive Count

Please update your BeeBase records with the total number of overwintering hives as of 1st November 2017.

Just click [here](#)

The National Bee Unit is again asking beekeepers to take part in the National Hive Count and update BeeBase with their colony numbers. This information is vital for planning and preparation for outbreaks of disease or exotic pest incursions such as the Asian Hornet.

This data helps to inform where the NBU needs to deploy Bee Inspectors and Asian hornet traps, improving our chances of early detection of this damaging invasive species.

The fact that there is Foulbrood only 40 miles from us must not be forgotten and the Association urges you to both register and keep your details up to date.

Winter is the time Beekeepers are supposed to relax, put their feet up or take holiday. That is, of course, assuming that hives are hefted, the fondant made and any vaporising or dribbling has been done. Then there is honey still to be bottled and wax sorted for sale, exchange or candle making. Nevertheless there should still be time to take some time out to do a bit of beekeeping development. This may be through books or magazines, but lots of free material is available on the internet. Some of it is perhaps questionable, but much is good, even if the accompanying music on some is not always to taste.

Tom Seeley is Professor in Biology in the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior at Cornell University in New York State. He is currently, probably the most sought after English speaking lecturer on bees. His books *Honeybee Democracy* and *Following the Wild Bees* are both scientifically valid and a good read, not something that always goes together. Many of his lectures are freely available on YouTube. These seem to be among the best recorded and presented

[Honeybee Democracy](#)

[Following the Wild Bees](#)

[The Craft of Bee Hunting](#)

Other useful internet resources include the well-known [Dave Cushman site](#), now managed by Roger Patterson. This site seems to include information about everything imaginable from frame numbers and sizes to descriptions of obscure feeder types. It's measurements are particularly useful to those wanting to make their own kit.

Please don't forget that the Association has a library. This used to be on display at every indoor meeting, but as it wasn't used by many the time seemed disproportionate. The book list is [here](#). If you want to borrow a book just ask a committee member at one of the meetings.

Finally, have you done the Basic yet? If not please consider doing it in 2018. It's not that bad...

Have you prepared your fondant for winter yet. It can, of course be bought, but this recipe seems just as good, and is undoubtedly cheaper!

This is a tried and tested recipe for home-made fondant. Into a stainless steel pan add 1kg of sugar; 250ml of water and 23g of liquid glucose (13g gives a firmer fondant)

Bring the mixture to the boil, stirring all the time. *Caution: Hot syrup scalds!!!* until the mix reaches 117C (use a cooking thermometer).

Take off the heat and float the pan in a sink of cold water, stirring as the mixture cools and starts to crystallise into a white paste. Measure the temperature every so often while stirring. When down to 40C mix the fondant with your hands until it feels smooth.

Break into two lumps and wrap each piece in cling film until you need it; alternatively use clear plastic containers. Either way when used it its easy to see if its been eaten.

Monthly Improvers Sessions

These sessions have been revamped now that most newer beekeepers have completed a beginner's course. All members are welcome to attend, but they are particularly intended to help those in the first two years of beekeeping. The annual cycle is now:

September	Annual management
November	Equipment & Hygiene
January	Honey extraction & Processing
February	Pests and diseases
March	Swarm management
April	Advanced procedures

Each session starts at 6:30 pm. There will be time for some questions at the time, but much more time at the end of the main meeting when all members are welcome to the bar area at the Bowling Club where discussion on the session and other beekeeping subjects can continue.

Improvers Day

For members with at least 2 years of beekeeping experience to develop their beekeeping skills

There will be both talks and practical demonstrations and plenty of time to ask questions

1000 to 1600

Saturday 10 February 2018
Middlesbrough Bowling Club
Free to Members—Places Limited

Guarantee your place by registering at <https://cbka-improvers-2018.eventbrite.co.uk>

Module 1 is the subject for the newly established members' examination learning group. There have been two meetings already and at both there was lively debate and discussion as would be expected among beekeepers. Helped by the experience and knowledge of Helen, Sal and Steve, those involved are able to share their varied practices and awareness of the various aspects of the syllabus, as well as the skills learned on their beginners course or from their mentors.

The group is fortunate that they use, or have used, several different designs of hive ranging from WBCs, nationals, 14x12s and Smith to Langstroth. There is one meeting before Christmas, then the hard work begins as the date of the exam in March approaches...

Do you have surplus wax?

Do you want to sell it?

Cleveland Beekeepers website now includes the opportunity to sell wax as well as honey.

If you want to have your name included please email [Graham Clarke](#)

Cleveland Beekeepers Association

Registered Charity 1168761

Secretary: [Steven Jacklin](#)

All welcome to both our Winter Indoor and Summer Outdoor meetings

Full details at www.teesbees.co.uk